Purchase of equity by AI and IA

1157. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy to allow Indian Airlines and Air India to buy shares in private airlines;

(b) if so, the details of this policy;

(c) whether it is a fact that shareholding in other airlines would give Indian Airlines and Air India greater commercial spread in the airline sector; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to ensure that the PSU airlines do not lose their market dominance in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Do not arise.

(c) This would depend on the shareholding size.

(d) Both the Airlines continuously take measures to promote their business and to bring about qualitative improvemental and quantitative in their customer related services in order to improve their overall performance. Some of the measures taken in this direction are (i) Fleet Augmentation/ Renewal, (ii) cost Control and Economy measures, (iii) Marketing Initiatives, (iv) Promotional Schemes, (v) Inflight Initiatives, (vi) Service upgrades on ground and (vii) Improvements in Cabin Ambience. Both the airlines also plan to induct new aircraft in their fleet to maintain their market attractions.

Accident at Palam Airport

†1158. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a security officer of Sahara Airlines was overrun by a bus of Jet Airways near the runway of Palam airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government propose to take any action to prevent this type of accident; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 21.10.2004, at 0530 hrs., a security staff of Air Sahara, who was reportedly sitting in the vehicular lane in front of parking stand Nos. 29 of the domestic apron, was overrun by one Jet Airways passenger coach.

(c) The driver of Jet Airways Coach was arrested and an FIR lodged.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) After analysing the cause of the accident, AAI has decided that various agencies working on the airside will take the following measures to prevent similar incidents in future:—

(i) Wearing of reflective jackets for all ground personnel working in the operational area is being made mandatory from 15.01.2005.

(ii) Safety lines have been drawn on the apron, around the parking stands, restricting vehicular movement in the immediate vicinity of the aircraft stand.

(iii) Training in 'Apron Safety Rules and Regulations' to all personnel working in the airside of IGI Airport is being made mandatory from January 2005.

(iv) Vehicular lanes are being re-aligned for a smoother vehicular traffic flow in the operational area.

(v) Monitoring of apron discipline and ramp safety has been enhanced to improve the safety standards at IGI Airport.

Infrastructure facilities at airports

1159. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to improve the infrastructure facilities at Ahmedabad, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Bangalore airports;